(Part II)

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THE INVESTIGATOR

* THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY *
In Search Of The Truth

FREE THE JFK ASSASSINATION FILES!.....1

THE GARRISON - GANDOLFO "SMOKE & MIRROR SHOW".....3

THE SECOND MARINA.....7

"IT WASN'T A DAMN FRAGMENT - IT WAS A HOLE!".....10

CUBAN CLAIRVOYANCE.....12

THE MYSTERIOUS MEXICO CITY CIA TAPES.....16

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO INVESTIGATE

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Future issues of THE INVESTIGATOR will feature a wide variety of articles by some of the finest assassination researchers and authors writing today.

THE GARRISON - GANDOLFO "SMOKE & MIRROR" SHOW

By G. J. Rowell

Ever since that first electrifying news of Jim Garrison's Kennedy assassination probe flashed around the world, I had been a staunch advocate of support for the embattled District Attorney. While I did not always agree with his pronouncements or tactics, I felt that eventually his New Orleans based Kennedy investigation would shed valuable new light on the murder conspiracy. However, developments in the past several years have changed my position about Mr. Garrison.

I, for one, am still waiting for Mr. Garrison to reveal the evidence needed to convict the late Clay Shaw in an open court of law. I will grant though that the Shaw case was a difficult one to prosecute - given the restriction that the prosecutor was required to show genuine evidence.

The point is moot now however, as the Shaw trial is ancient history. Mr. Garrison has moved on to a Judgeship and a new storm of controversy. For it appears that Mr. Garrison has opened yet another "Smoke & Mirror Magic Illusions Show" - with Mr. Ted Gandolfo to shill for him. The Garrison - Gandolfo duo have proclaimed that there exists tape recorded proof of conspiracy - yet, they have failed to provide one shred of actual evidence! Who says you can't go back to the good ol' days?

In what seems like a bad case of Déjà vu, I am reminded of a "Herblock" cartoon at the front of the Rosemary James and James Wardlaw book, Plot Or Politics? The Garrison Case & Its Cast. The cartoon, which is entitled "New Orleans Strip Joint" depicts the Jolly Green Giant, Jim Garrison, dressed in underclothes, shoes and socks doing a fan dance under signs that declare: "Sensational Disclosures Too Sensational To Disclose!" and "Startling Revelations That Can Not Be Revealed!"[1]

Yes, indeed, tape recorded proof of conspiracy too sensational to disclose and too startling to reveal!

But, let me start at the beginning of my interest in this particular aspect of the JFK assassination. Years ago, I had acquired a tape of Mr. Gandolfo's Assassination U.S.A. radio show that featured a conversation with Mr. Garrison about a taped confession from one of the JFK plotter's. Since I had never seen anything in print about this taped confession, I wrote the following for the November 22, 1981 issue of Penn Jones' The Continuing Inquiry newsletter:

"The source of information about the confession comes by way of New Orleans and the former District Attorney Jim Garrison. This

important taped confession and the possibility of a cover-up in the New Orleans end of the JFK investigation were the topics of discussion between Garrison and broadcaster/critic Ted Gandolfo in a February 1978 telephone conversation about Blakey. (Blakey, as you will recall, was appointed to the Chief Counsel slot of the HSCA in June 1977 and by February 1978 his tactics were beginning to show through).

The following excerpts were taken from the conversation between Garrison and Gandolfo as they centered in on the solid progress made by the New Orleans Field Investigators and the lack of response by Blakey on the progress that they had made:

GARRISON: Please emphasize, because I'm well aware of the discreditation the national media has done, please emphasize that my inclination has been not to get into the act - that I don't seek publicity, that I'm leaning over backwards not to - but, I'm well aware of the developments here, because I've turned over so much material. We went far beyond the Shaw case, that was just an incident and we were right there - but, went far beyond that and the material I've turned over to these men - they've gone far beyond where we went. And I have been astonished as the months passed and silence comes from Washington.

GARRISON: They have meetings in which they're specifically discussing the assassination. With Shaw and Ferrie present. The details.

GANDOLFO: You're talking about the Perry Raymond Russo thing.

GARRISON: No - since then. They've gone beyond that. Into new areas we hadn't reached yet. We had the right people, but, we didn't have all their meetings.

GARRISON: They have a f--king confession from one of the guys participating in the meetings. As an accessory. On tape. Hours. Dates, places, trips to Dallas in preparation...it's corroborated by a thousand things that I've sent up.

GARRISON: Why haven't they taken a deposition from him in these months? They've left him available to be killed.

GANDOLFO: The person in the Banister office.

GARRISON: Yeh.

GANDOLFO: Yeh, I think I know who you mean. I think he may be...

GARRISON: Well, let's not guess over the phone because it may be monitored - but, the point is they just leave him available to be killed as the months pass and they don't take his deposition.

GARRISON: He not only attended meetings in which they planned the assassination in detail - they even sent him on a trip to Dallas

just before the assassination - to give, uh, to, um, meet with one of the other people involved and to give him, uh, maps and photographs.

GARRISON: Well, at least if they kill him, they hurt themselves because it's all on tape now. And, uh, they'll be hard put to ignore what's on tape of a man that's been killed.

In light of the above conversation, and the fact that the existence of the confession tape has never been publicly acknowledged by the HSCA or Blakey, then it would appear as though a person could reasonably draw one of the following conclusions:

A. That the confession tape does not exist and that former New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison is lying. (I personally do not believe that Mr. Garrison is lying).

B. That the confession tape does exist and that a thorough HSCA investigation of the matter has led to the conclusion that there is no truth to the confession. (If this is true, then the public should have the right to question Mr. Cliff Fenton (the Chief New Orleans Investigator) and the other members of the New Orleans Field Investigating team in regards to their findings in this matter. The public should also have the right to have access to the official investigative reports that were filed so they can judge for themselves what the truth is in this matter).

C. That the confession tape does exist and that it has been suppressed by G. Robert Blakey. (One possible reason for the suppression is that Blakey did not want to step on the toes of anyone in this investigation - including the FBI and the CIA - and that he agreed not to release anything for public scrutiny unless he had the express blessing of the FBI and the CIA. (This is documented in both the HSCA nondisclosure agreement and his The Plot To Kill The President book). Hence, it is almost a certainty that the CIA would never allow the release of any evidence that would prove that their ex-employees, Clay Shaw and David Ferrie, were part of a plot to murder the President of the United States).

A smug G. Robert Blakey has stated, "I'll rest on the historians' judgment 50 years from now when everything becomes available. I'll rest on the historical judgment that is made on us in 50 years."

I would suggest to Mr. Blakey that a wait of 50 years is really not necessary - for I'm sure that a great number of people already have his number!"[2]

Since the article appeared in 1981, Mr. Garrison has been silent on the matter, while Mr. Gandolfo has continued to beat the drum of CIA conspiracy in Mr. Garrison's behalf. I have waited for approximately nine years for evidence to surface from either Mr. Garrison or Mr. Gandolfo to prove any of their claims. This wait has been in vain - in spite of the fact, that Mr. Garrison

has subsequently written an article for Freedom magazine entitled "The Murder Talents Of The CIA" and a hardcover book On The Trail Of The Assassins; while Mr. Gandolfo has written his self-published The House Select Committee On Assassinations COVERUP.

As I understand the situation as it exists at this time, there are supposedly at least two tapes in the possession of the HSCA. Both were allegedly in the custody of Clifford Fenton, who allegedly passed them on to G. Robert Blakey.

The first tape allegedly consists of a confession given by James Hicks during the ill-fated Shaw probe. According to Mr. Gandolfo: "Jim Hicks testified to a New Orleans Grand Jury that he was a signal operator to the assassins that day." He further stated that Jim Garrison gave the tape to the HSCA and he retained no copies.[3]

The second tape or tapes allegedly are conversations of the actual plotters planning the Dealey Plaza assassination. Not much is known about their origin or how they came to be in Jim Garrison's possession. But, Ted Gandolfo claims: "Yes, I heard the plotters tapes with Garrison...No I DON'T have any copies. Blakey put them in the National Archives!"[4]

In COVERUP Gandolfo has written: "...they [Cliff Fenton's five man investigative team] secured tape-recorded conversations in which the assassination of President Kennedy was being discussed by, among others, people whose voices were identified as being contract employees of the Central Intelligence Agency..."[5]

Gandolfo stated, in November 1986, on the WPLP radio show from Florida that the voices on the tapes belonged to: "Clay Shaw, David Ferrie, William Seymour, Emilio Santana, Jack Lawrence, Fred Lee Chrisman, Jim Hicks, Jim Braden, etc."[6]

Aye, now here's the rub...according to Gandolfo, Jim Garrison gave the tapes to the Federal Government and did not retain any copies. Are we to believe that Jim Garrison had tapes that could provide undeniable proof of a conspiracy - and that he did not make any copies of these? Especially, since Mr. Garrison has expressed such disdain and distrust of the Federal Government for all of these years.

Are we also to believe that Ted Gandolfo listened to these tapes with Mr. Garrison - and made no effort to secure a copy of these to include in his vast collection of audio tapes? A collection that he claims contains over 5000 hours of assassination related material.[7]

Perhaps a day will come when the actual tape recordings surface and prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that they really do exist, but until that day comes - the Garrison and Gandolfo claims will have to remain as just another "Smoke & Mirror" Show.

UPDATE: Researcher Gus Russo, a consultant to Oliver Stone on the movie JFK, has informed me that the Fenton confession tape does exist and is locked up in HSCA files in the National Archives. He told me that he has listened to the tape and the person giving the alleged confession is Thomas Beckham.

Notes

1. Rosemary James & Jack Wardlaw, Plot Or Politics? The Garrison Case & Its Cast, Pelican Publishing House, 1967
2. G.J. Rowell, "JFK Plotter's Taped Confession Suppressed By Blakey?", The Continuing Inquiry, Vol. VI No. 4, November 22, 1981, p. 7-9
3. Letter to author from Mr. Gandolfo dated 7/17/90
4. Ibid
5. Ted Gandolfo, The House Select Committee On Assassinations COVERUP, 1987, p. 261
6. Tape of November 1986 WPLP radio show
7. Gandolfo, COVERUP, p. 257

THE SECOND MARINA

By G. J. Rowell

There is one area concerning the assassination of President John F. Kennedy that has generally been overlooked and has never been emphasized - that there was a female co-conspirator in the plot to take the President's life.

In the weeks preceding the President's assassination, someone was impersonating Lee Harvey Oswald and attempting to incriminate him in the upcoming murder. So intent was the attempt to tighten the noose around Lee Harvey Oswald's neck, that the impersonator (or impersonators) actually had a female accomplice (or accomplices), complete with children, posing as Marina, Oswald's Russian born wife.

When American Expose - Who Killed JFK? hit the television airwaves, the host, syndicated columnist Jack Anderson, touched upon the situation during a live interview with Marina Oswald Porter:

Jack Anderson: "Let me take you back to the weeks before the assassination. I understand - someone was impersonating Oswald - in fact, didn't you learn that the impersonator was sometimes accompanied by a woman impersonating you?"

Marina Oswald Porter: "Uh, after the assassination I seen lots of documental - when people, uh, certain witnesses do testify to the fact that they saw Lee buying a car, they saw Lee doing this, saw him drinking - which he did not drink at all. And then at one